

HCS SB 325 -- MILITARY AFFAIRS

SPONSOR: Steelman (Shoemaker, 8)

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "do pass by consent" by the Committee on Homeland Security and Veterans Affairs by a vote of 15 to 0.

This substitute requires the county recorder of deeds to accept original certified military discharge documents for filing. The recorder may refuse to accept any document that appears to have alterations or erasures. The recorder must maintain a separate open public index of the documents, using only the name of the subject of the military document. The substitute sets forth the parties who may have access to the record, including the individual, certain relatives, and legal representatives. A notarized request for any document must be made to the recorder. The Recorders' Association of Missouri is required to develop a request form for the military documents. A record of all requests must be kept by the recorder for five years. The substitute also applies to the City of St. Louis.

The substitute repeals current law requiring the recorder to maintain a list of all military discharges and requiring the records to be open to the public. The substitute also prohibits any reproduction or use of military discharge documents for any commercial or speculative purpose.

Current law permits veterans of both world wars and the Korean War who entered the military before graduating from high school to receive an honorary high school diploma. The substitute deletes references to specific wars to permit any veteran who left high school to enter the military to apply for an honorary diploma.

The substitute requires every public school district to devote one class period at each district school to an observance of the significance of Veterans Day.

FISCAL NOTE: No impact on state funds.

PROPOSERS: Supporters say that the bill honors veterans. Many teachers and other persons are not aware of Veterans Day. The bill will help teach the history and sacrifice of veterans.

Testifying for the bill were Senator Steelman; Veterans of Foreign Wars; and Missouri Association of Veterans Organizations.

OPPOSERS: There was no opposition voiced to the committee.

Steve Bauer, Legislative Analyst